

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 992
By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Houser of Roan Mountain, Tennessee, upon receiving the Bronze Star Medal for his heroism in Iraq.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly, along with the citizens of Tennessee and our nation, are keenly aware of the courage and sacrifice of the hundreds of thousands of men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces to protect the lives, liberty, and national interests of the United States; and

WHEREAS, although all of these selfless soldiers serve with valor and conviction, there are a select few who stand out for their outstanding acts of heroism in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable soldier is Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Houser who received the Bronze Star Medal, the third highest medal to the Congressional Medal of Honor, for his bravery and combat leadership in Iraq on March 8th, 2004; and

WHEREAS, SSG Houser, of the First Platoon, Bull Troop, First Squadron, Second Armored Cavalry Regiment, has been in Iraq for the past year, and his acts of bravery during his year of service are the definition of true heroism; and

WHEREAS, leading over 200 platoon missions as a Senior Scout, and the entry team on more than 40 raids, SSG Houser has apprehended more than 50 suspected criminals and confiscated countless arms and contraband while miraculously sustaining no loss of life; and

WHEREAS, with his detailed situational understanding and his adept maneuvering, SSG Houser has maneuvered convoys through grenade attacks and enemy fire without taking any damage to his platoon or to their equipment; and

WHEREAS, SSG Houser, a quick thinker who acts calmly under pressure, has strategically employed military maneuvers to avoid friendly fire incidents while completing his

mission, including intentionally drawing heavy fire on himself to allow a suspect to be apprehended; and

WHEREAS, when his platoon observed a convoy hit by a roadside bomb, SSG Houser skillfully deployed his team to calm a volatile crowd and assist the wounded soldiers; he personally administered first aid to one soldier with a critical wound, saving the soldier's life; and

WHEREAS, his skill, dedication, and self-sacrifice, combined with his quick thinking and nerves of steel, have been crucial to the success of his missions; and

WHEREAS, his exemplary service has garnered the attention and appreciation of his fellow servicemen, his superior officers, and his country, which gratefully bestow the Bronze Star Medal as a token of gratitude for his meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, SSG Houser has valiantly served his country in uniform for over a decade; he first saw combat in Operation Desert Storm, and he has been deployed to several Asian and African nations; and

WHEREAS, the son of Pat and Earl Hendry of Roan Mountain, Tennessee, SSG Houser is the only person who does not view his actions as heroic, calling his frequent, courageous acts "just another day on the job"; and

WHEREAS, SSG Houser's parents, are immensely proud of their decorated son; Mr. Hendry is an Army veteran who served his country during the Korean conflict, and instilled the valued principles of determination and bravery into his son; and

WHEREAS, stationed in Fort Polk, Louisiana, his wife, Rachel Houser, and their four children, Luke, Kailah, Keegan, and Kera, anxiously await the return of their loved one, but are grateful and proud of all that he has accomplished; and

WHEREAS, SSG Houser's youngest daughter, Kera, was born in October 2003 during his deployment in Iraq, and he looks forward to meeting her upon his return to Fort Polk in April; and

WHEREAS, an intrepid and courageous soldier, SSG Houser has unselfishly sacrificed his personal life and his safety to preserve the collective security of our great Nation; and

WHEREAS, all our words and other expressions of appreciation are inadequate to fully convey our gratitude to SSG Houser for his unwavering patriotism and dedication to freedom,

liberty, and justice; his answer to the call of duty has been extraordinary, and his immeasurable contributions to our military efforts merit special recognition; and

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and appropriate that we should honor SSG Houser for his dauntless courage and commitment and his many acts of heroism, and we should specially recognize him for receiving the Bronze Star Medal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Houser upon receiving the distinguished Bronze Star Medal and recognize his many years of meritorious and heroic service to our Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our heartfelt gratitude for his integrity and dedication as a soldier, and we thank him and his family for their many personal sacrifices for the collective good of our great Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.